

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIE-00 OPR-02 A-01 CU-04 AID-05

SY-05 PER-03 SS-15 SSO-00 ABF-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SP-02 MMO-04 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7297

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS BEIRUT 14255

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, ALOW, AFSP

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF APPROPRIATE QUOTE SCHOOL
AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AND AUTHORITY
APPLY THIS RATE FOR BEIRUT DEPENDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS
AT OTHER THAN DESIGNATED SAFEHAVEN POSTS

REF: A. SECTION 332.23(A) OF E AND E MANUAL, PART I.

B. ARTICLE ON ALLOWANCES IN MARCH, 1975 NEWSLETTER.

1. BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL UNREST AND FACTIONAL FIGHTING IN BEIRUT, AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL HAS EVACUATED MOST OF ITS FACULTY TO THE U.S. AND IS NOW OPERATING A QUOTE MINI-SCHOOL UNQUOTE ONLY WITH A FEW REMAINING TEACHERS AND A MINIMUM OF STUDENTS. OTHER ACCEPTABLE EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN THE CITY HAVE BEEN CLOSED FOR LONG STRETCHES OR HAVE DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS FOR DURATION OF FIGHTING. AS A RESULT, EMBASSY CAN NOW CORRECTLY DECLARE THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO LONGER ADEQUATE ELEMENTARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL FACILITIES EXISTING IN BEIRUT.

2. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, DEPARTMENT IS URGENTLY REQUESTED TO ESTABLISH AN APPROPRIATE BEIRUT QUOTE SCHOOL AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE EDUCATION ALLOWANCE FOR ALL GRADES AND TO NOTIFY EMBASSY BY RETURN TELEGRAM OF THE APPLICABLE AMOUNTS. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT ALL APPROPRIATE COST INFORMATION WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE
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IN ALLOWANCES DIVISION OF DEPARTMENT SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF

SUCH RATES ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE BASED ON THE AVERAGE COST OF VARIOUS EUROPEAN SCHOOLS WITH BOARDING FACILITIES WITH THE ONLY FACTOR LACKING BEING THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION FROM BEIRUT WHICH WOULD BE READILY AVAILABLE FROM AIRLINE GUIDES OR OTHER SOURCES.

3. ABOVE IS CONSIDERED A MOST URGENT MATTER TO PERMIT PAYMENT OF EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AT AN APPROPRIATE QUOTE SCHOOL AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE LEVEL FOR BEIRUT EMBASSY DEPENDENTS WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED AT SCHOOLS IN CITIES OTHER THAN THE AUTHORIZED DESIGNATED SAFEHAVEN POSTS OF ATHENS AND FRANKFURT. MORE SPECIFICALLY AND OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN ARE THE STUDENTS OF FAMILIES WHO HAVE ELECTED TO RESIDE IN PARIS. ONE FAMILY IN PARTICULAR, I.E., THE WIFE AND TWO DAUGHTERS OF DEA OFFICER VICTOR MARIA, HAS JUST RECEIVED NOTIFICATION OF THE SCHOOL FEES CHARGED BY THE PARIS GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED SCHOOL WHICH ARE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE AUTHORIZED ATHENS QUOTE SCHOOL AT POST UNQUOTE RATE.

4. EMBASSY IS BASING ITS ASSUMPTION THAT THE BEIRUT QUOTE SCHOOL AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE RATE WOULD BE PAYABLE TO EVACUATED STUDENTS BASED ON AN ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN THE MARCH, 1975 NEWSLETTER ENTITLED QUOTE ALLOWANCE FOR FOREIGN AND HOME SERVICE TRANSFERS, REPRESENTATION, SEPARATE MAINTENANCE, AND EVACUATION UNQUOTE. MORE SPECIFICALLY, UNDER THE SECTION ENTITLED QUOTE EVACUATION PAYMENTS UNQUOTE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT APPEARED: QUOTE ALSO AVAILABLE IS A SPECIAL EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AT THE QUOTE SCHOOL AT POST UNQUOTE RATE ESTABLISHED FOR THE SAFEHAVEN POST OR AT THE QUOTE SCHOOL AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE RATE OF EITHER THE EVACUATED POST OR THE SAFEHAVEN POST AS MAY BE NECESSARY UNQUOTE. THIS IS IN EXACT CONFORMITY WITH SECTION 600 (133)(2) OF THE STANDARDIZED REGULATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, THIS EMBASSY DOES WISH TO APPLY THE QUOTE SCHOOL AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE RATE OF BEIRUT TO THESE EDUCATION ALLOWANCE PAYMENTS FOR DEPENDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS AT POSTS OTHER THAN ATHENS OR FRANKFURT AND TO COVER COST BEING INCURRED IT REQUIRES THE EXPEDITIOUS ESTABLISHMENT OF A REALISTIC QUOTE SCHOOL AWAY FROM POST UNQUOTE RATE WHICH IS NOW TOTALLY JUSTIFIABLE FOR REASONS CITED IN PARA 1 UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOVE.

5. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE REASONS CITED, DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT IN THE RUSH OF EVACUATING PERSONNEL FROM BEIRUT THE COUNSELOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS HENRY R. MILLS CITED SECTION 332.23 OF THE E AND E MANUAL, PART I, WHICH STATES IN CONNECTION WITH PAYMENT OF EDUCATION ALLOWANCE THAT QUOTE THE RATE APPLIED SHALL BE WITHIN THE MAXIMUM

PRESCRIBED FOR THE CHILD'S GRADE IN EITHER SUCH METHOD OF
EDUCATION FOR THE POST AT WHICH THE CHILD IS RESIDING UNQUOTE.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE ASSUMED THAT THIS REGULATION APPLIED AND
COULD BE CORRECTLY INTERPRETED TO MEAN THAT THE EDUCATION
ALLOWANCE RATE OF ANY POST SELECTED BY THE EVACUEES WOULD
APPLY. THIS WAS IN ERROR AND WHILE IT AFFECTS ONLY ONE
FAMILY WHO, IN REALITY, DID NOT INQUIRE ABOUT THE SUBJECT
PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE, IT NEVERTHELESS IS A FACTOR WHICH
EMBASSY AND COUNSELOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS MUST
CONSIDER AND RECTIFY.
GODLEY

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